

# PRESS RELEASE

September 15, 2006

## **RE:ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBERTO GONZALEZ HONORS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES**

More than 230 Justice Department employees – along with 42 other individuals, many of whom are federal employees and law enforcement officers – were honored September 12, 2006 at the Department's 54th Annual Awards Ceremony at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. The Attorney General's Annual Awards Ceremony provides an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of a number of U.S. Department of Justice employees as well as individuals from outside the Department.

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn is proud to announce that one of the awards has been presented to Allison P. Gioia, Assistant United States Attorney. Allison P. Gioia was awarded the Attorney General's Award for outstanding Contributions by a New Employee for the exemplary work in her three years of service to the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York, which includes repeatedly volunteering to serve as a second chair in trials, in addition to a caseload of cases involving complex fraud matters and her hard work, initiative and dedication to child exploitation cases. Ms Gioia serves as the Project Safe Childhood coordinator for this district. U.S. Attorney Flynn stated that the work and efforts of Ms. Gioia demonstrate the dedication and high level of performance of her in this office.

"The award recipients make me proud to be their colleague," said Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. "Their dedication and achievements remind me why it is an honor to serve at the Department of Justice."

"These awards recognize the impressive achievements of 224 of the nation's finest public servants," said Mary Beth Buchanan,

Director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice. "They are the prosecutors, secretaries, paralegals, IT specialists, officers, agents, and others whose hard work makes our nation safer and our system of justice stronger."

Working together, the nation's law enforcement and justice community have:

- Driven the violent crime rate to its lowest level in 30 years;
- Increased gun-crime prosecutions by 68 percent in just three years--and as a consequence, over the past three years the number of gun crimes has decreased by more than 250,000;
- Charged more than 900 violators in more than 400 cases since the inception of the Corporate Fraud Task Force. To date, more than 500 individuals have been convicted, including the prosecution of top executives whom have been shown do not stand above the law;
- Dismantled 14 major drug-trafficking networks and seriously disrupted eight more over the past two years alone;
- Stopped human trafficking. In the fiscal years of 2001 to 2003, 210 new human-trafficking investigations were opened. That is double the number of the previous three years;

- Charged 439 individuals for criminal civil rights violations over the past three fiscal years. This is more than were charged during the preceding three years; and
- Obtained the single largest civil penalty in history against a single company for violations of an environmental statute. Through tough enforcement of the Clean Air Act, a reduction in air pollution of over 465,000 tons per year has been achieved. And courts imposed more than \$179 million in civil penalties for violations in environmental cases, second only to fiscal year 2003's record-setting recovery of \$203 million.

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys' Offices around the country.